

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# **THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER**

Emmaus of the Midlands

March, 2005



## **NEW SCHEDULE FOR GATHERINGS**

**by Laxton Hinson**

As you probably already know, our next Gathering will be held at Windsor United Methodist Church, Columbia, SC, on April 1, 2005. But, there's something different about this Gathering that you need to know. That's **right**, we're making a few changes! The major change is in the order of the activities. The Food & Fellowship portion of the meeting will be held first and will be starting at 6:45 PM. The Worship Service will follow at 8:00 PM.

There are many reasons for this change but here are just a few. We want everyone to have enough time to get to the Gatherings and visit with their Emmaus friends and share food & fellowship with them. It seems we seldom get the Worship service started on time because we're still waiting for more attendees to arrive. We sometimes leave the sanctuary to share Food & Fellowship at a late hour and we all get home at a much later hour. The time is a lot later for those of our brothers and sisters who travel from towns at the far edges of our community. By 8:00 o'clock, everyone should have gotten there (even if they came in late for the food). We should have a full contingent for the Worship Service, which is the primary reason we are all there to begin with. We will attempt to keep this time for Worship. We will still have the welcome and the Community Board Chairperson will provide a short Board report and, if necessary, handle special business. We will try to have only those activities that add to the worship and praise of our Lord through prayer, singing and thanksgiving. That means that the singing of "Weave" will be done at the conclusion of the Food & Fellowship hour before we enter the Sanctuary. Appropriately, we will end the Worship service with a closing hymn and benediction after Holy

Communion. If all goes according to schedule, we should be able to leave the Gathering at approximately 9:00 PM.

With this new schedule, our activities will help to keep us mindful of why we have Gatherings: to renew friendships we made on our Walk; to replenish our spiritual energies; and, to celebrate the privilege of worshipping our Lord as His Children. We want more of our Pilgrims to get in the habit of attending Gatherings. We also want you to encourage someone who has not been attending lately to join you at the next Gathering at Windsor UMC on April 1, 2005. Make plans now to be there at 7:00 PM for Food & Fellowship and followed by the Worship Service at 8:00 PM. Please note that child care service will be provided. Please remember that the change in the schedule of activities has been made so we can enjoy this time together and to celebrate our love for Jesus Christ and for each other. See you at Windsor. DeColores...

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### NELDA'S NOTES

by Nelda Canada, Board Chairperson

## EMMAUS & CHRYSALIS SOUTHEAST CELEBRATION April 8-9, 2005

I can hardly contain my excitement! The North Georgia Emmaus Community will host the Southeast Regional Celebration at Alpharetta First UMC, about one half hour's drive from downtown Atlanta. Registration is at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, following by a light dinner, the Parade of Community banners begins at 6:00 with the Celebration at 7:30 p.m., and dismissal about 9:30 p.m. Morning prayers on Sat. begin at 8:00 a.m., with equipping and training workshops throughout the day. Sessions include sponsorship, lay director and spiritual director training, team selection training, music, Gatherings, Hoots, Discovery Junior High Weekend, Companions in Christ, and more. Eight workshops are offered each session. And a complimentary pre-event workshop: Devotional Writing for the Upper Room, will be led by Rev. Stephen Bryant, editor and

publisher of the daily devotional guide, The Upper Room, on Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

I certainly plan to attend. Early-registration is \$50.00. After March 24<sup>th</sup>, registration is \$75.00. This event is too close to miss. What a way to strengthen our community and our own Christian witness. Let me know if you plan to attend!

Additional information can be found on the Upper Room website, [www.upperroom.org/emmaus](http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus), or by calling 1-877-899-2780 ext. 7227. Vendors may find information about promoting their unique crafts, products or company by contacting Karen Vaughn at [karen.f.vaughan@verizonwireless.com](mailto:karen.f.vaughan@verizonwireless.com).

<p><b>PRAYER REQUESTS</b> – Michael Walker. Ruth Hinson-surgery on knee Wednesday went well, Tom Furse in death of sister, Betty Huggins' brother and sister-in-law, Dora and Charles Way, new pilgrims from men's walk #26, praise report for the healing of Michael Grimes' foot-he is the son of two of our new pilgrims, Betsy and Doug Meade, and the grandson of Tom and Mary Furse</p>
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### DATES TO REMEMBER

*March Gathering* – April 1, Windsor UMC Corner of Alpine and Windsor Lake – across from E. L. Wright Middle School We will eat first at 7 and the service begins at 8 p. m. Windsor is located at 9500 Windsor Lake Boulevard.

*April Gathering* – April 29 Lewis Chapel, Sumter.

Don't forget to vote for new Board members. The election is April 1 at the March gathering. Bring your ballot. We will be electing five positions

### Keep the Fire Burning

Laura Campbell

Walk #25

Table of Elizabeth

I have always loved a fireplace, especially when using real wood. The sound of the wood crackling, along with the smell, glow and warmth of the fire, creates in me an indescribable serenity. When building a fire you start with kindling that burns very quickly. If you do not continue to

feed the fire with logs, it will go out. That is how I think of my fourth days.

When I left the Walk to Emmaus my heart was on fire which was kindled by the love of Jesus Christ. As written in Luke 24:32, "They began telling each other how their hearts had felt strangely warm as he talked with them and explained the Scriptures during the walk down the road." I made a commitment to keep the fire burning through Bible study, becoming

more involved in my church, and by joining a Reunion Group. The Reunion Group is what holds me accountable – it feeds the fire!

Every week I review my spiritual, study and action life in grace. I have a plan of action for the  
(continued on page 5-FIRE.)

## BALLOT FOR BOARD ELECTION

Emmaus of the Midlands Board of Directors 2005 Ballot								
CANDIDATE	CHURCH	CITY	Voter #1	Voter #2	Voter #3	Voter #4	Voter #5	Voter #6
Pam Rankin	Dalzell UMC	Dalzell						
Alex Tisdale	Lewis Chapel UMC	Sumter						
Doris Crocker	Chapin UMC	Chapin						
Bobby Coker	St. John UMC	Aiken						
Jerry McLemore	McLeod UMC	Columbia						
Carol Frye	Trinity UMC	W. Columbia						
Joyce Kirkland	Nazareth UMC	Saluda						
Wayne Shealy	Chapin UMC	Chapin						
Gail Snow	McLeod UMC	Columbia						
Leigh Stowe	Shandon UMC	Columbia						
<b>IMPORTANT: VOTE FOR FIVE (5) CANDIDATES</b>								
Listed above are the names of the individuals who have been placed on the ballot by the nominating Committee, which has been made up of the five board members who are rotating off this year. This nominating committee, is in keeping with the Emmaus of the Midlands By-laws, as well as the guidelines established by our charter through the Upper Room. These people have been prayerfully considered for service and leadership in the Emmaus of the Midlands Community. Each member the household who has attended an Emmaus Walk, Chrysalis Flight, or their equivalent, is eligible to vote for five (5) of the people who are listed on the above ballot. Remember this is not meant to be a popularity contest. Please prayerfully consider the ballot you cast, and vote only for those individuals who you feel the Lord is leading you to vote for. The people with the highest number of votes will serve our community for a term of three years.								
<b>This ballot MUST be received by April 1, 2005, either by mail (P O Box 25165, Cola., SC 29224) or brought to the April 1<sup>st</sup> Gathering.</b>								



We, as the Emmaus of the Midlands Community, would like to extend a most gracious welcome to our newest members—The men and women of walk 26: Sandra Anderson, Marcia Andrews, Tracy Boatwright, Tyke Brookshire, Elizabeth Brunson, Carson Chitty, Lynda Counts, Jackie Daniel-Hyche, Jenny Frye, Jo Ann Glass, Dene Gleaton, Renee' Guy, Stella Hall, Alisha Hansen, Toni

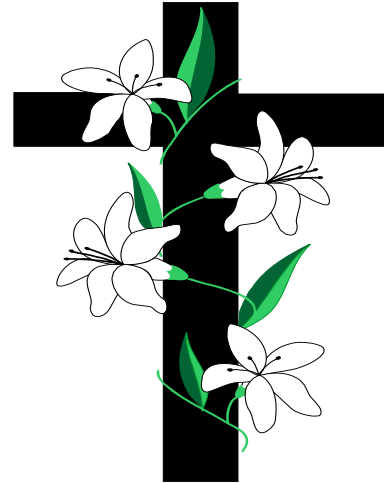
(page 5)

Hollingsworth, Libby Horton, Felicia Howard, Pat Jennings, Msue Keener, Sylvia Kennerly, Missie Neece, Kelly Lambert, Salley, Mackey, Betsy Meade, Sandy Newman, Phyllis, Plemons, Fran Powers, Joan Proffitt, Helen Rivers, Debi Rood, Jerius Stark, Anne Thomasson, Becke Valder, Sherry Williamson and the men welcomed are Doug Meade, Tommy Jones, Lenny Newman, Charles Brookshire, Johnny Burke, John Chitty, Phil Keener, Kris Kneece , Charlie Lorick, Craig Howard, Kenny Plemons, Mike Powers, David Proffitt, Bill Whitt, Tom Anderson, Bryant Jennings, Bob Hamilton, Tom McCollum, and Darrell Lambert. WE WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO **YOUR COMMUNITY**.

(continued from page 3, **Fire**)

coming week that includes all three areas. I am conscious of when I felt closest to Christ and when I fell short of pleasing Him. The reunion group has been such an important part of my fourth days because of the accountability, the connection to Emmaus, and in keeping my priorities in order. I cherish and thank God for the relationships that I am building with Christian friends, both in church and the Emmaus community.

If you have not participated in a reunion group, I encourage you to join one or set one up and be faithful to it. Keep the fire burning! DeColores



Emmaus of the Midlands  
P. O. Box 25165  
Columbia, S. C. 29224-5165

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Flat mail address corrections should be sent to Jan Smith, 301 Park Shore East, Columbia, S. C. 29223. E-mail corrections are to go to [www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Emmaus of the Midlands  
Report by Treasurer  
As Of March 14, 2005

	Amount
Bank Balance As Of February 7, 2005	\$ 8,849.70
=====	
Pledges	\$ -
Walk Fees /Team Fees Community Store	\$ 4,300.00
Candlelight	\$ 432.00
January Collections	\$ -
Team Training Meals	\$ -
Gathering	\$ -
Kitchen Refund	\$ -
Donation	\$ -
Total Funds Received	\$ 4,732.00

Emmaus of the Midlands  
Report by Treasurer  
As Of March 14, 2006

	Amount
Bank Balance As Of February 7, 2006	\$ 8,850.70
=====	
Pledges	\$ (621.22)
Walk Fees /Team Fees Community Store	\$ (850.62)
Candlelight	\$ (1,080.02)
February Collections	\$ (1,309.42)
Team Training Meals	\$ (1,538.82)
Gathering	\$ (1,768.22)
Kitchen Refund	\$ (1,997.62)
Donation	\$ (2,227.02)
	\$ (2,456.42)

Bank Balance As Of March 14, 2005	\$ 15,808.72
=====	